It is also rare on the west coast. St. Vincent's Gulf, South Australia (*Mr. G. F. Angas*), rare.

6. On the Birds of Angola.—Part I. By R. B. Sharpe. With Notes by the Collector, J. J. Monteiro.

(Plate XLIII.)

It will be, I am sure, welcome news to every ornithologist to hear that that most energetic and enterprising traveller, Mr. Joachim J. Monteiro, is once more on the soil of Angola, and that he has already commenced the formation of a collection of the natural productions of this country. It is to be hoped that Mr. Monteiro's efforts will be crowned with as great success as were his former exertions on behalf of ornithology (*cf.* P. Z. S. 1865, p. 86, and Ibis, 1862, p. 333); and, though we cannot expect to find so many striking novelties as those obtained by him during his last expedition, we may reasonably look forward to the discovery of many interesting facts connected with the geographical distribution of birds throughout the Æthiopian region. Our knowledge of the avifauna of Angola is still very meagre, so that every collection, however small, is sure to contribute something before unknown; and certainly the present consignment of Mr. Monteiro is not behind-hand in this respect. Especial interest attaches to the migrations of European birds, a subject we really know nothing about; and it is for this reason that the study of African ornithology presents attractions to the student of European birds. Many European species migrate to Africa, the *Sylviidæ* especially; and although the Sahara presents a barrier which stays the southward progress of many, there are several species which proceed the whole length of the continent as far as the Cape. Of these birds it is interesting to know the exact time and place of their occurrence; and for the development of our knowledge of migration and geographical distribution careful collections like those made by Mr. Monteiro are a real assistance, and we can only wish that he may proceed with the same zeal and energy which have characterized his former efforts on behalf of science.

While on the subject of Angolan ornithology, it may be as well to mention that the Royal Zoological Museum of Lisbon has recently received several large collections from Angola and Benguela from Signor Anchieta; and many interesting novelties have thus been brought to light, all of which have been described by Professor Barboza du Bocage in the 'Jornal' of the Lisbon Academy and in the 'Proceedings' of this Society. These papers of the learned Professor are amongst the most interesting of recent contributions to Ethiopian ornithology.

Mr. Monteiro left England in November last, with the intention of procuring, if possible, a few birds in Prince's Island and St. Thomas, if the steamer stopped at these places long enough to enable

him to do so. No birds from Prince's Island appearing in the collection, it is evident that his intentions were frustrated in this quarter; but the following birds are sent from St. Thomas:—

(*a*) Speirops lugubris.

Zosterops lugubris, Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 72.

"Male. St. Thomas, October 1868."—J. J. M.

(*b*) Hyphantornis grandis.

Ploceus collaris, Fraser, P. Z. S. 1842, p. 142.
Ploceus grandis, Gray, Gen. of Birds, ii. p. 351 (1849).
Hyphantornis grandis, Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 125 (1857).

"Male and female. St. Thomas, October 1868. Stomachs contained remains of beetles, hard seeds, and the fibrous oily envelope of the Oil-Palm nut (*Elais guineæ*)."—J. J. M.

Mr. Fraser's name posesses undoubted priority over that of Mr. G. R. Gray, but must nevertheless give way, inasmuch as there is a *H. collaris* (Vieillot) of an earlier date.

I do not believe that any English description of the female of this fine Weaverbird has as yet been published, and I therefore subjoin that of the bird sent by Mr. Monteiro.

Head greyish brown, with longitudinal stripes of dark brown; back and scapularies olive-green, the centre of each feather very dark brown, giving the appearance of dark shaft-stripes; lower part of the back greyish, tinged with olive-green; least wing-coverts greyish washed with olive-green; second and cubital coverts blackish brown, tipped with white and edged with olive-green; primary coverts black; quills blackish, the inner web light olive at the base, the outer web narrowly edged with olive-green, a little broader on the secondaries; tail dark brown above, paler beneath, the middle feathers distinctly washed with olive-green, the exterior ones margined with the same colour; cheeks and ear-coverts yellowish brown, marked with greyish brown; throat and breast yellowish white, a little darker on the breast, the sides of which are dark brown; centre of the abdomen and under tail-coverts white; flanks light brown; under wing-coverts white, tinged with olive-green; bill black; feet light brown.

(*c*) Coturnix histrionica.

Coturnix histrionica, Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 204.

"Male. October 1868. Stomach full of seeds."—J. J. M.

I have also seen this very handsome Quail from Damara Land, whence it was sent by the late Mr. Anderson. It seems to be widely spread over western Africa; and in St. Thomas it is very common, as the following note, which Mr. Keulemans has kindly forwarded to me, will show.

"During a sojourn of a few weeks on the Island of St. Thomas I had the opportunity of observing this bird, which, although very common on the island, is, by reason of its habits, little known even to

the inhabitants. The Harlequin Quail is found in the large swamps and prairies which surround the miserable town of St. Anna da Chaves. On one occasion I heard it a little higher up in the mountainous part of the island; but I think it is a rare visitor to the mountains, which are rich in vegetation and everywhere covered with trees and bushes. The only place where the Quails are numerous is in the neighbourhood of the town. I used to hear them every morning from about 7 to 11 o'clock, and afterwards from 3 to 6 in the evening. Their cry, which is continually heard, has a great similarity to that of our European Quail, but is not quite so powerful, more like *hoog-hoo-hoo*, *hoog-hoo-hoo*, &c.

"The bird is most difficult to observe in the act of calling, as the grass and herbage grow exceedingly high in these countries, and the Quail, directly it hears any thing suspicious approaching, immediately conceals itself by lying squatted on the ground; nor does it stir till the danger appears to have passed. I sometimes managed to approach within a few paces of where the bird was lying, making sure that in a moment I should see the bird fly up and have a flying shot; but after walking round about for some time I was obliged to give up the chase, being both unable to flush the bird and to find it hiding in the grass. At last, after many days spent in endeavouring to procure a specimen, I called in the assistance of a little negro boy, who showed me by signs (for I could not understand his language) that he was able to catch it. We therefore together silently approached the spot where the bird was calling, creeping along the ground and parting the herbage as we went. All at once I saw the little nigger give a start forward, and at the same moment a bird got up and flew away. He very nearly caught it with his hands, and as for myself I was so much surprised that I quite forgot to fire. Some days after this, a man brought me one alive, which he had found and caught hiding its head in a hole of a land-crab. The inhabitants assured me that only the negroes know how to find the bird, which sometimes lies so close as actually to be trodden upon by the person in search of it. After a little time I was able to find them myself, and shot them as they flew up. The inhabitants, who are little acquainted with the bird, know it by the name of *Codorniz*."

The following is a list of Mr. Monteiro's Angola collection. It has been formed chiefly at Ambriz and on the river Quanza, both well-known localities. Those believed to be recorded from Angola for the first time have a dagger (†) prefixed to their names. References are also made to Dr. Hartlaub's standard work on the Ornithology of Western Africa, to Mr. Monteiro's papers (Ibis, 1862, p. 333, and P. Z. S. 1865, p. 86), and to Professor Barboza du Bocage's recent papers in the Lisbon 'Jornal.'

†1. Phyllopneuste trochilus.

"No. 11. Obtained at Columbo on the river Quanza, November 1868. Very active, hanging on to and going round branches of trees. Stomach full of ants and other small insects."—J. J. M.

I have compared this specimen and find it identical with English ones in my collection. I have our common Willow Wren also from the Knysna, from Damara Land, and from the Ovampo country, collected by the late Mr. C. J. Andersson.

2. Nectarinia gutturalis.

Nectarinia gutturalis (Linn.).

Nectarinia natalensis, Jard.; Mont. P. Z. S. 1865, p. 96; Bocage, Jorn. Acad. Lisb. 1867, pp. 135, 332, 1868, p. 4.

"No. 10. Male. Obtained at Columbo on the river Quanza." —J. J. M.

There seem to be three species of red-breasted Sun-bird very closely allied to one another, but which may be separated as follows:—

a. gula nigra	1. *cruentata* (Rupp.).
b. gula metallice chrysea.	
a'. macula ad flexuram alæ amethystina	2. *gutturalis* (L.).
b'. macula ad flexuram alæ nulla	3. *senegalensis* (L.).

There are other differences; but the above seem to me to be the most striking. The beautiful amethystine spot at the bend of the wing is a distinct characteristic of *N. gutturalis*.

3. Nectarinia jardinii.

Nectarinia jardinii, Verr.; Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 47; Bocage, Jorn. Lisb. 1867, p. 135.

"No. 7. Male. Columbo, river Quanza, November 1868. No. 32. Female. Ambriz, March 1869."—J. J. M.

Mr. Monteiro has sent a pair of this pretty little Sun-bird, which would appear to be not uncommon in Angola. Professor Barboza du Bocage records it from Angola, Loanda, and Benguela.

4. Urobrachya axillaris.

Urobrachya axillaris (Smith); Bocage, Jorn. Lisb. 1867, p. 140, *et* 1868, p. 11.

"Obtained at Columbo on the river Quanza, November 1868." —J. J. M.

One specimen, not quite adult. On comparing it with a bird in my collection from Mossamedas, I find a striking difference in the size of bill, that of the Angola bird being very much larger. The orange patch on the wing also seems to be much brighter; but we must wait for additional specimens before we can finally determine whether there is any specific difference between them.

†5 Textor alecto.

Textor alecto, Temm.; Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 131.

"No. 44. Male. River Quanza, May 1869."—J. J. M.

†6. Platysteira melanoptera.

Platysteira melanoptera (Gm.); Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 93.

"No. 21. Male. River Loge."—J. J. M.

This specimen scarcely agrees with Fantee specimens in my collection. There is a greater amount of white edging on the tail, for instance, and there are other minor differences.

7. Hirundo angolensis. (Plate XLIII.)

Hirundo angolensis, Bocage, Jorn. Acad. Lisb. 1868, p. 10.

"Ambriz, March 1869. Female.

"Ambriz, April 1869."—J. J. M.

This species has been recently described by Professor Barboza du Bocage (*l. c.*), and is a very interesting novelty. The two specimens sent by Mr. Monteiro agree with the description of the learned Professor; and I herewith subjoin a detailed account of one of them for the benefit of ornithologists, as the bird was hitherto only known from the original specimen in the Lisbon Museum.

Forehead, throat, and upper part of the breast deep brick-red; entire upper surface dark steel-blue; tail gradually forked, the whole of the inner webs, except a black border at the tip, pure white, the two middle feathers steel-blue; a band across the breast below the red throat steel-blue; the rest of the breast and under tail-coverts ash-coloured, a little paler in the centre of the breast; the under tail-coverts washed with rufous, each feather margined with pale grey and having a little heart-shaped blue mark before the end of the feather, the black shaft being also strongly defined; under wing-coverts dark ashy-grey, washed on the edge of the wing with steel-blue; beak and legs black.

As Professor Barboza du Bocage remarks, this Swallow belongs to the same group as *H. rustica*, but is easily distinguished by the colour of the under wing-coverts. Its nearest ally is a little Swallow from the river Gambia (*Hirundo lucida*, Verr.). I have long possessed a specimen of this latter Swallow, which I had supposed must be the *Hirundo angolensis* of Barboza; but the acquisition of a second and more adult bird a short time ago, which was given me by Mr. Gould, awakened some suspicion in my mind as to its correct identification, and the receipt of the true *H. angolensis* from Mr. Monteiro proves that the Gambian bird is a totally distinct species. The latter may at once be distinguished by its altogether brighter colours, and by the white under wing- and tail-coverts.

8. Motacilla vidua.

Motacilla vidua, Sundev. Öfv. Kongl. Vet. Akad. Förh. 1850, p. 158.

Motacilla capensis, Mont. P. Z. S. 1862, p. 334.

"No. 19. River Loge at Ambriz."—J. J. M.

9. Irrisor cyanomelas.

Irrisor cyanomelas (Viell.); Mont. P. Z. S. 1865, p. 94.

"No. 12. Young female. River Quanza, November 15th, 1868. Stomach contained remains of beetles."—J. J. M.

10. Corythornis cyanostigma.

Corythornis cristata, auct.; Sharpe, Monogr. *Alced.* part 6 (1869).

"Male. River Quanza, May 1869. Abundant."—J. J. M.

Notwithstanding the convictions expressed in my 'Monograph' and in the 'Ibis' (1869, p. 279), I feel obliged to own that the adoption of Linnæus's name *cristata* for the Madagascar bird, as suggested by Dr. Pucheran, must be really correct. Lord Walden has drawn my attention again to the subject, and has pointed out to me the original descriptions of Seba, Brisson, and Linnæus. His Lordship's intimate acquaintance with Linnean nomenclature has rendered him skilful in determining the origins of the descriptions given by the learned Swedish professor; and from the following facts I think there can be no doubt that in the present instance Linnæus took his diagnosis of *Alcedo cristata entirely* from Brisson.

Although Brisson and Linnæus both refer to Seba, it is very evident that the former had really a specimen of the bird before him when he was writing, and therefore his description is, as usual, particularly exhaustive and accurate. As Dr. Pucheran remarks, it is curious that he could have considered the *Alcedo amboinensis cristata* of Seba with its red bill to have been the same as his *Ispida philippensis cristata*. Anyhow Linnæus evidently took his short diagnosis of *Alcedo cristata* from Brisson's more elaborate one, and only copied Brisson in the reference to Seba. I cannot help feeling regret in having thus to acknowledge myself in the wrong hitherto, especially as the name *cyanostigma* (which the species must henceforth bear) is applicable only to the young bird.

11. Ispidina picta.

Ispidina picta (Bodd.); Sharpe, Monogr. *Alced.* pt. 4 (1869).

"Males. River Quanza, May 1869. Rare."—J. J. M.

Two beautiful specimens, the old male being decidedly the most brilliant I have ever seen.

12. Halcyon cyanoleuca.

Halcyon cyanoleuca (Vieill.); Sharpe, Monogr. *Alced.* pt. 5 (1869).

"Ambriz, April 1869.

"Male. River Quanza, May 1869."—J. J. M.

Two specimens. The male from the river Quanza is a young bird agreeing with the figure in my 'Monograph.'

13. Halcyon senegalensis.

Halcyon senegalensis, Linn.; Sharpe, Monogr. *Alced.* pt. 7.

"No. 9. Obtained at Columbo on the river Quanza, November 1868. Stomach contained remains of a small lizard.

"No. 22. Male. Ambriz. Food consisted of large grasshoppers.

"No. 37. Male. River Quanza, May 1869.

"Nos. 39, 40. Females. River Quanza, May, 1869."—J. J. M.

Mr. Monteiro procured several of these birds, at my request, in order that I might have abundant proof of the distinctness of *H. cyanoleuca* from the present species. I am happy to say that, as far as I can see, the two species are undoubtedly distinct, all the specimens mentioned above having the cinereous head, the very old birds just having a tinge of blue here and there, while the black line does not extend through the eye as in *H. cyanoleuca*.

14. Halcyon chelicutensis.

Halcyon chelicutensis (Stanl.); Sharpe, Ibis, 1869, p. 277.

"Nos. 13 and 14. Male and female, shot together. River Quanza, November 1868.

"Nos. 30 and 31. Ambriz, March 1869. Male and female."

Sir William Jardine has very kindly sent me a note concerning the propriety of my uniting *Halcyon damarensis* with the present species. Sir William has a specimen of the Damara bird which measures 7·3 inches in length, while the longest total length adduced by me (*l. c.*) was 6·8. I must state, however, that my South-African skins have the neck much drawn in and could easily be made to measure $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches without stretching them perceptibly. I have also examined Strickland's type in the Cambridge Museum. I do not perceive the least difference in colour, though I admit that the Damara bird is a good deal larger. But this fact cannot be taken as a character for specific separation, as so many analogous cases are to be found amongst African birds.

15. Eurystomus afer.

Eurystomus afer (Lath.); Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 29 (1857).

"Captured at sea within sight of land, off Mangue Grande. The stomach contained the remains of a large moth."—J. J. M.

Dr. Hartlaub (*l. c.*) states that the local race of this bird from Gaboon differs in its less-bright colours and also in its larger dimensions. The specimen sent by Mr. Monteiro measures as follows:—Total length 10 inches; of bill from front 0·8, from gape 1·3; wing 6·6; tail 3·7; tarsus 0·4; middle toe 0·3, lateral toe 0·6, hind toe 0·5.

16. Coracias pilosa.

Coracias pilosa, Lath.; Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 30.

"Male. Legs light yellowish green; iris brown; pupil dark purple. Stomach contained remains of insects. Ambriz, February 1869."—J. J. M.

17. Coracias caudata.

Coracias caudata, Linn.; Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 30; Bocage, Jorn. Lisb. i. p. 134.

"Ambriz, April."—J. J. M.

†18. Dendropicus hartlaubi.

Dendropicus hartlaubi, Malh.; Gray, Cat. Pic. Brit. Mus. p. 65.

"No. 45. Loanda, May 1869."—J. J. M.

A male, identical with specimens in the British Museum, from Shupanga.

†19. Campethera chrysura.

Campethera chrysura (Swains.); Gray, Cat. Pic. Brit. Mus. p. 81. *Dendromus chrysurus,* Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 181.

"No. 18. River Loge at Ambriz."—J. J. M.

20. Chrysococcyx claasii.

Chrysococcyx claasii (Cuv.); Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 190; Bocage, Jorn. Lisb. 1868, p. 9.

"Nos. 26 and 27. Very abundant in January. Disappears about April and May."—J. J. M.

21. Tinnunculus rupicola.

Tinnunculus rupicolus, Bocage, Jorn. Acad. Lisb. p. 132.

"River Loge at Ambriz. Common."—J. J. M.

One specimen, apparently an old female.

22. Elanus melanopterus.

Elanus melanopterus (Daud.); Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 11 (1857), Bocage, Jorn. Lisb. 1868, p. 2.

"River Quanza, May 1869."—J. J. M.

One specimen in full plumage.

23. Treron calva.

Treron calva, Temm.; Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 192; Bocage, Jorn. Lisb. 1868, p. 9.

"No. 24. Female. Ambriz, December 1868."—J. J. M.

†24. Eupodotis melanogastra.

Eupodotis melanogastra (Rupp.); Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 207 (1857).

"Ambriz."—J. J. M.

A single specimen, apparently a young male just gaining the adult dress.

25. Butorides atricapilla.

Ardea atricapilla, Afzel.; Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 223.

"Female. River Quanza, May 1869."—J. J. M.

A single example of this widely distributed Heron. It is in beautiful plumage; and the head, instead of being black as the name would imply, is dark cinereous with a bronzy-green lustre.

26. Cursorius senegalensis.

Cursorius senegalensis, Licht.; Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 209; *id.* P. Z. S. 1866, p. 62; Mont. Ibis, 1862, p. 335.

"No. 46. Loanda, May 1869. Abundant."—J. J. M.

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